Matrix Reflection Paper for TOK

What does The Matrix convey about reality? Make sure to find the “knowledge issues” involved in the movie and highlight any Ways of Knowing in your answer.

In this reflection I am going to try and discuss the knowledge issues that are conveyed about reality in the movie “The Matrix”.

There are many things mentioned in the movie about reality and what it really is example in the earliest parts of the movie when Neo is talking to a junkie he mentions “You ever have this feeling where you're not sure if you're awake or still dreaming?” in this Neo could be saying that either his dreams seem very lifelike or his life very dreamlike or maybe that fact that he has simply lost the ability to tell the difference between reality and a dream. This question could portray that Neo is lost for reason, that he unknowingly going through his life without a sense of “why” or “how”.

Another question said in the movie is when Mopheus answers to Neo’s statement that “this isn’t real” by saying “What is "real"? How do you define "real"? If you're talking about what you can feel, what you can smell, what you can taste and see, then "real" is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain...” this could be considered as a knowledge issue and a good knowledge question as in this Mopheus conveys reality as unknown and confusing. He asks “what is real?” and if he can define real due to the fact there is no straight and true definition to the word real and if it is portrayed as what you can feel, smell, taste and see then it is merely your brains interpretations that make things real, he shows that just because you have and feel these senses does not portray them to be reality itself it could just be your brain signals sending these senses around your body. As if everything you feel, see, hear and taste could all be like one big hallucination. It makes you ask yourself how do you now if you are in the Matrix at all? Or how can you tell what’s reality and what’s not?

This all portrays that is sense perception a way of knowing does it show you what is real and what’s not and if it does how would you or your brain show to be able to tell this?

Another way in which in which the matrix conveys reality to be is shown when cypher the traitor to Morpheus says “You know, I know this steak doesn't exist. I know that when I put it in my mouth, the Matrix is telling my brain that it is juicy and delicious. After nine years, you know what I realize?... Ignorance is bliss” this shows Cypher even though knowing through the way or sense perception of reality he still choses his emotion of ignorance over this. He still eats the same steak knowing it is unreal and inconvenient he chooses to still eat it and in a way enjoy it, this could show that he chooses his emotion over his knowledge and it makes you question if maybe unknowing is the better choice or if reality would be seen as the poorer choice in life?

So to conclude the matrix includes a lot of ways to portray different messages of reality and how unknowing we can be about it. It shows that through sense perception, emotion, language and reason it gives a question as to what reality is and how we are seen to believe reality itself. Its asks what is information, data, belief, faith, opinion, knowledge and wisdom to us and if it actually makes a difference as to what we know of reality itself.